

YOUR GUIDE TO THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY

Common Pleas Courthouse

345 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Tel: 614-525-3453

www.fccourts.org

COMMON PLEAS COURTHOUSE



Franklin County Board of Commissioners

373 S. High Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6314
Tel: 614-525-3322
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www.franklincountyohio.gov



WELCOME TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURTHOUSE

ENTRANCE

The main entrance to the new Common Pleas Courthouse is located at the northwest Corner of High and Mound Streets.

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

The new Common Pleas Courthouse is open to the public from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except for the holiday dates recognized by Franklin County (<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/fc/content/holidays.cfm>).

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

Metered parking and privately operated surface parking lots are available within easy walking distance of the new Common Pleas Courthouse. Franklin County operates parking garages located at 34 East Fulton Street and 399 South Front Street. In addition the area is served by privately operated parking garages conveniently located at Columbus Commons (NE Corner of Main & High Streets), 80 North 4th Street (Fourth & Elm Parking Garage) and 600 South Front Street (Grange Insurance).

COTA provides bus service to the new Common Pleas Courthouse and on-site parking for bicyclists is available.

LOCATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL COURT OPERATIONS

The new Common Pleas Courthouse at 345 South High Street houses the operations and courtrooms of the Common Pleas Court – General Division.

Additional court operations and courtrooms are housed in the following facilities:

Court of Common Pleas - Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch:
373 South High Street and 399 South Front Street, 525-6320

Tenth District Court of Appeals of the State of Ohio:
373 South High Street, 525-3580

Franklin County Probate Court:
373 South High Street, 525-3894

Franklin County Municipal Court:
375 South High Street, 645-8346



Frequently Asked Questions About Common Pleas General Division:

Q: Do all common pleas court trials have juries?

A: There are some cases that are tried directly to a judge or a 3-judge panel rather than to a jury.

Q: Can I bring my cell phone or pager to court?

A: You may bring your cell phone or pager to court, however they must be turned off prior to entering any courtroom.

Q: What should I wear to court?

A: Proper attire is expected at all court proceedings. Shorts and/or tank tops are not permitted. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering any courtroom.

Security Screening

The purpose of security screening is to make the Franklin County Government Center a safe place to work and conduct business. The screening process is voluntary. You may stop the process at anytime. However, you will not be permitted past the secure screening area until you successfully pass the screening procedure.

Prohibited items that are not illegal to possess will be retained at the screening area and returned upon exiting. Unclaimed items will be disposed of in accordance to the statutory procedure.

Other Important Numbers

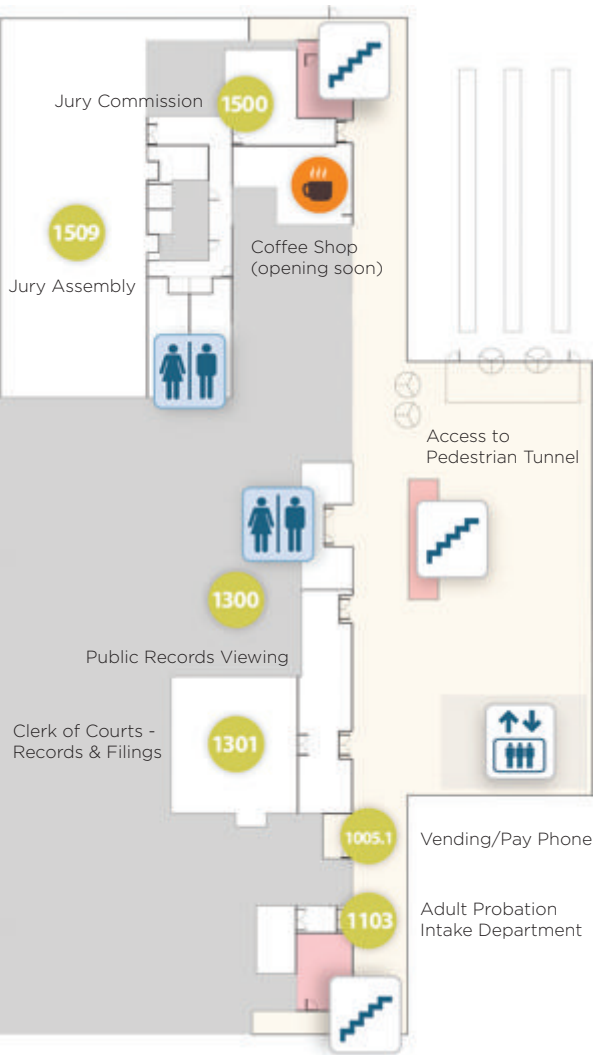
Clerk of Courts: 525-3600

Prosecutor: 525-3555

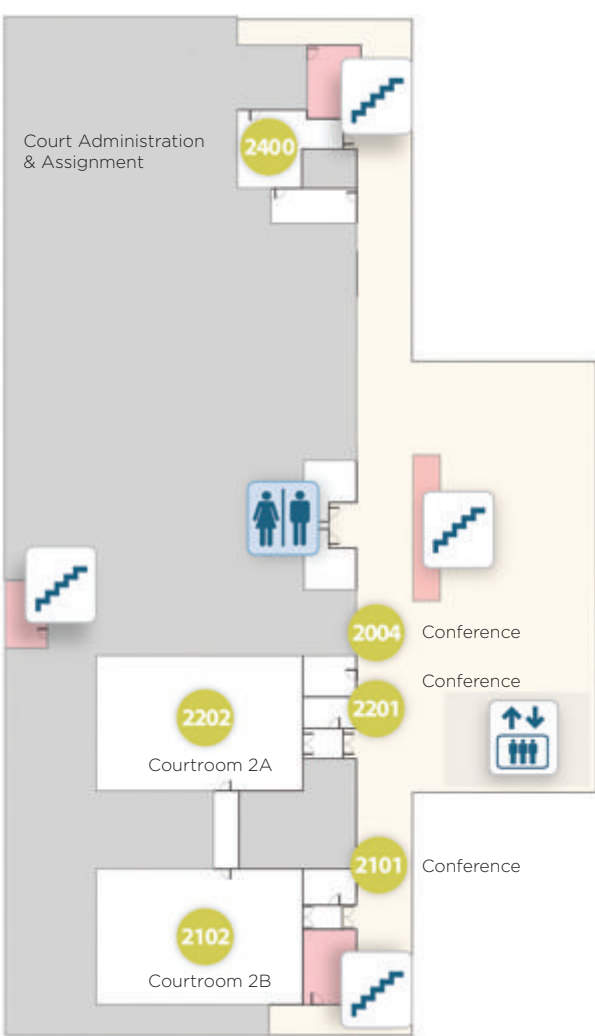
Public Defender: 525-3194

Sheriff: 525-3360

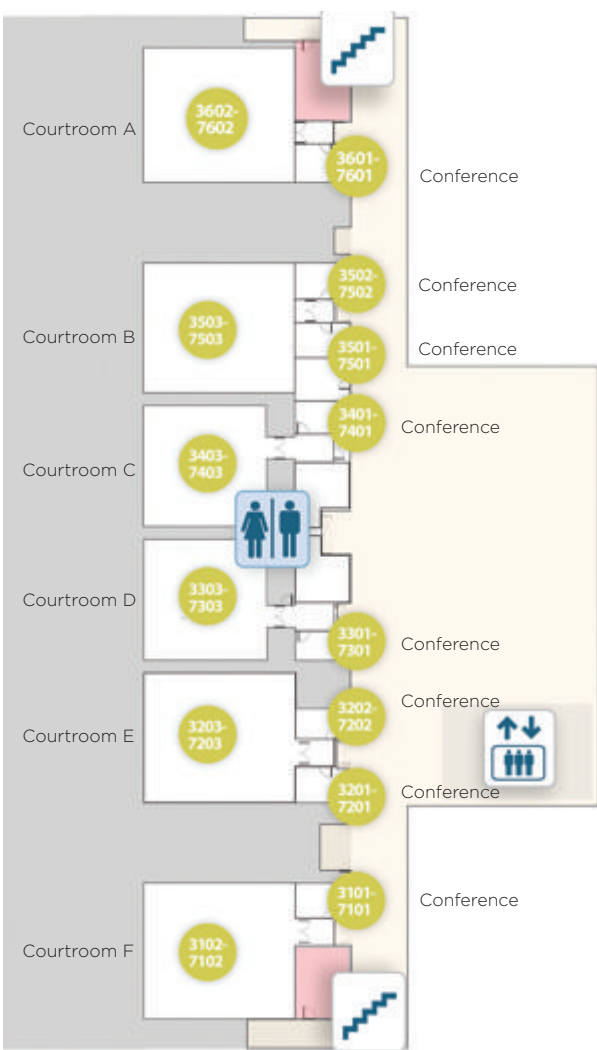
FLOOR ONE



FLOOR TWO



FLOORS THREE - SEVEN



LEGEND

- Elevator
- Coffee Shop (opening soon)
- Stairs
- Restrooms

Pedestrian Connector

The Common Pleas Courthouse is connected to the existing government center south of Mound Street by a tunnel system, providing access for the public to all buildings located in the Franklin County Government Complex. The tunnel can be accessed from the Common Pleas Courthouse lobby descending stairwell or from the newly built

pavilion entrance located at the SW Corner of High Street and Mound Street. Building users will be screened by security at these points and then enter the security envelope of the Franklin County Government Complex. The tunnel allows travel back and forth between buildings without going through security screening each time.



Franklin County
Common Pleas
Courthouse

GREEN DESIGN FEATURES

General design strategies – the public areas face south. The building is stretched out along the east-west direction to reduce cooling loads and improve daylighting. The building area and volume have been sized to reduce the amount of heating and cooling required. The building is designed to be about 25% more energy efficient and will save a million gallons of water each year compared to a comparable new code compliant building.

Thinking ahead – the building design allows for future expansion toward Front Street. The design of this public building took a long term view, and was based on reducing long term cost of ownership by considering maintenance, durability, and service life as well as reducing utility costs. Building features will pay back in 9 years or less.

Building commissioning – ensures that the building is operating as designed and intended.

Keep it light – light color exterior building materials reduce cooling loads and the urban “heat island” effect, reducing urban temperatures. The white upper roof reduces cooling loads and doesn’t get hot. This will help the roof last longer.

Efficient heating and cooling equipment – reduce the amount of natural gas and electricity needed to maintain a comfortable environment. The use of different building zones and variable speed fans, pumps and chillers tailors energy use to energy demand.

Plumbing fixtures – low flow and dual flush plumbing fixtures reduce water use.

Rain-garden – rainwater falling on the building or the rain-garden is stored in a storage tank under the rain-garden. This stored water is used to irrigate the landscaping.

Green roof – reduces storm water runoff into river. Helps reduce urban temperature and performs air cleaning.

Exterior sunshades – reduce glare and heat gain, saving 200 tons of cooling load. A typical air conditioned house uses 2-3 tons of cooling.

“Smart” glass – blocks ultraviolet and other non-visible radiation while maximizing visible light for daylighting.

Solar controlled window shades – portions of the shades automatically adjust to the location and brightness of the sun throughout the year.

Clerestories – used throughout the building to allow daylighting in most spaces, including the courtrooms, while reducing the need for artificial light.

Landscaping – native plants are used to reduce the need for watering. No potable water is required. Drip irrigation increases watering efficiency.

Daylight harvesting – the high efficiency lighting automatically adjusts to the amount of natural daylight available, reducing electricity use on bright sunny days.

Turn out the lights – occupancy sensors turn off the lights when a room is no longer in use.

Sharing the load – cooling equipment is connected to other Franklin County buildings across the street to provide the entire county government center with high efficiency cooling. This reduces overall electrical use and cost to taxpayers.

Exterior lighting – carefully directed to reduce night time sky glare.

Material recycling – over 95% of construction waste was recycled, reducing impacts on our landfills.

Indoor air quality – all materials were selected to reduce or eliminate indoor air contaminants and air quality testing was performed to verify the performance. This promotes a healthy and productive work environment.

Wood paneling and millwork – wood is a renewable resource. Hickory was used throughout and came from sustainably managed forests in the Midwest.

Construction materials – a significant quantity of the building materials used came from local sources or the Midwest. Many of the materials used in this building have significant amounts of recycled content. The asphalt pavers used in the entry plaza are just one example.

“Franklin County is dedicated to the mutually compatible goals of environmental protection and economic growth. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners has been at the forefront promoting green space retention,

alternative fuels creation and use, waste management and recycling programs and other valuable environmental protection practices.”

Board of Commissioners Resolution 683-06

